



1 February 2004



## USAREUR 2004 Summer Safety Campaign

1. Summer will be here before we know it. As we look forward to the end of winter and the long, warm days that will follow, we also must ensure that we are prepared for the hazards associated with the season. This year, we face the additional challenge of reintegrating Soldiers as units return home after long deployments.
2. The 2004 Summer Safety Campaign will begin 1 May. The Summer Safety Campaign memorandum (available on the USAREUR Homepage) provides more information about the campaign and tasks commanders to develop summer safety programs for their units. This campaign applies to USAREUR Soldiers in European garrisons and at deployed locations in the USEUCOM AOR (for example, KFOR and SFOR). It also applies to all currently deployed USAREUR OEF/OIF units as they prepare for and execute redeployment, reintegration, reconstitution, and retraining activities.
3. The success of this campaign depends on all of us. Leaders at every level down to first-line noncommissioned officer supervisors must lead this campaign and ensure that their unit summer safety program is fully developed and implemented. These programs must provide a comprehensive, proactive means of identifying risks and implementing risk-mitigating measures in unit training and operations. Leaders will ensure that every Soldier is aware of and complies with the unit summer safety program.
4. During this campaign, we must be especially sensitive to the needs of units and Soldiers who have returned home from extended deployments. History shows that the number of serious accidents increases as units redeploy after major military operations. Many returning Soldiers are unfamiliar with European traffic rules and USAREUR-unique requirements. Leaders must ensure that every Soldier receives prescribed training, understands safety risks, has appropriate vehicular licenses, and is familiar with the requirements in the Summer Safety Campaign.
5. The Summer Safety Campaign will concentrate on the following areas:
  - **Field and Garrison Training.** Commanders of units involved in training and mission-support operations must conduct risk assessments, set safety conditions, and conduct operations and training to standard. AE Pamphlet 385-15 must be used to ensure that safety is integrated into all our activities. This applies to both ground and aviation operations.

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- **Heat Injuries.** The danger of heat injuries is a significant threat to our Soldiers and to mission accomplishment, both in garrison and at deployed locations. Training on recognizing and preventing heat injuries is essential.
  - **Water Activities.** Every year in the European military community, someone drowns or is severely injured in an accident while taking part in water sports. Alcohol use, horseplay, inexperience, lack of supervision, and swimming in unauthorized areas are the most common factors in these incidents. More than half of all fatalities in or on the water are alcohol-related. Safety awareness and swimming only in authorized areas are the keys to preventing accidents. Each community must distribute information on authorized swimming areas.
  - **Alcohol and Substance Abuse.** Leaders must be aggressive in preventing alcohol and substance abuse following long deployments and during the summer season.
  - **Vehicles Safety.** The dangers of drinking and driving and the hazards associated with operating vehicles, especially motorcycles, in heavy, fast-moving traffic must be emphasized. New arrivals and individuals returning from deployment are particularly at risk.
  - **Recreation Activities.** Personnel must be made aware of the hazards associated with activities such as bicycling, camping, hiking, skating, and summer outings; and the precautions they should take to avoid injury.
  - **Wellness.** Deployments and redeployments can be stressful for Soldiers and their families. Leaders must be able to recognize the warning signs of suicide and domestic violence and know where to get help when needed.
6. The time to start preparing for summer is now. We can make a difference. We must do everything we can to prevent injury and loss of life and to ensure our Soldiers, civilians, and family members are protected as we execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.



B. B. BELL  
General, USA  
Commanding



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